Zoological researches. Table 1 compares his findings with the dates published on the plates, and we draw these to the attention of ornithologists who may not have seen Bastin's work.

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A record of active moult in the Streaked Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus sorghophilus*

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Streaked Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus sorghophilus* is a globally threatened species, the breeding grounds of which are not known with certainty, but presumed to be in north-east Asia ('probably Manchuria': Vaurie 1959; or 'a very limited area of Liaoning and Hebei': Brazil 2009). Most previous records are of birds either seen or collected on migration in east and north-east China, and from the Dalton Pass, Nueva Vizcaya Province, Luzon, the Philippines. The only wintering records come from the Philippines, most at a single site, Candaba Marsh, Pampanga Province, Luzon (BirdLife International 2001). Numbers detected have declined markedly in the past three decades. There were 18 sightings totaling 69 birds in 1981–90, compared with only 11 sightings of 22 individuals in 1991–2007. All but three of these were at Candaba (T. H. Fisher *in litt*. 2009).

We conducted a mist-netting survey for *A. sorghophilus* at Candaba Marsh and other wetland sites in central Luzon on 9–22 March 2009. The only *A. sorghophilus* found during this period was caught in the bottom shelf of a mist-net, set at the edge of a small patch of *Phragmites*, in a wet, *Polygonum*-filled ditch, on 10 March. It was ringed and examined, and was found to be moulting the inner primaries. P1 (descendent numbering) was less than $^1/_3$ grown (moult score 2) and p2 was missing, giving a primary moult score of 3, following Ginn & Melville (1983). All other flight feathers and contour feathers were old, unmoulted and so heavily worn that it was impossible to determine whether the bird was an adult or a first-year. This appears to be the first published record of moult in *A. sorghophilus*. The bird weighed 7.2 g and had muscle and fat scores of 2 and 0 respectively (following Bairlein 1995).

If the single 2009-trapped bird was typical, it appears that the timing of moult in *A. sorghophilus* may be roughly comparable with, e.g., Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* and Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler *L. ochotensis*, in which most individuals undergo a complete moult in late winter to early spring, shortly before northbound migration. Asian-wintering *Acrocephalus* species exhibit a range of moult strategies with some (e.g., Oriental Reed Warbler *A. orientalis* and Black-browed Reed Warbler *A. bistrigiceps*) having a complete post-nuptial moult on the breeding grounds, whilst others (e.g., Blyth's Reed Warbler *A. dumetorum*, Paddyfield Warbler *A. agricola* and Manchurian Reed Warbler *A. tangorum*) apparently commence moult soon after arriving in their winter quarters, or at least in the early part of the winter (Svensson 1992, Round & Rumsey 2003).

The plumage of a single *A. sorghophilus* photographed at Muraviovka Park, near Blagoveschensk, Amurskaya Oblast, Russian Federation, on 21 June 2004 (F. Pekus *in litt.* 2009) (reported as 22 June 2004 in Round 2009), appeared relatively fresh, with prominent, clearly streaked upperparts, and broad, pale, unabraded fringes to its tertials, primaries, secondaries and rectrices, providing further support for a complete late winter or early spring moult.

Our single *A. sorghophilus* was caught among 235 birds (including 122 other *Acrocephalus* warblers) mist-netted in marshy, mainly *Phragmites*-dominated, wetland habitats at six discrete sites in central Luzon during the 9–22 March period (Round 2009). Thus the species appears to be genuinely scarce, presumably due (at least, in part) to the widespread conversion of former wetland vegetation to rice paddy. It is also possible that its preferred wintering habitat is wetland vegetation other than *Phragmites* that had been removed, or was not encountered, during the survey. Additionally, if Streaked Reed Warblers were moulting during the period of the survey this may have inhibited their mobility, reducing the probability of capture. Obtaining more information on the ecology, distribution and status of this threatened bird is an urgent requisite for its future conservation.

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First record of Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica* in the Federated States of Micronesia

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Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica* exhibits a spotty distribution from the Andaman and Nicobar islands (India) east to the Philippines and Republic of Palau (south-western Micronesia), and south through Indonesia and the New Guinea region to the Solomons (Baptista *et al.* 1997). It has a predilection for small, remote, and relatively undisturbed islands for breeding, sometimes in dense colonies, but the species disperses widely to larger islands and adjacent mainland areas to feed, often making lengthy oversea flights (Gibbs *et al.* 2001, BirdLife International 2009). Nicobar Pigeon is considered Near Threatened, with declining numbers throughout most of its range because of over-hunting, exploitation for the pet trade, habitat destruction, and predation by introduced mammals (BirdLife International 2008). However, the distinct Palau subspecies *C. n. pelewensis* has increased dramatically in recent years, possibly because of a local ban on shotguns, after being close to extinction immediately following World War II (Baker 1951, Pratt & Etpison 2008). Although it forages mostly on the ground, Nicobar Pigeon is a powerful flyer (Delacour 1959, Goodwin 1983, Gibbs *et al.* 2001), and highly nomadic (Baptista *et al.* 1997), thus making the species predisposed to reach distant islands outside its normal range. Observations on Tench Island, in the northern Bismarck archipelago, indicated that Nicobar Pigeons commuted daily to forage on the larger islands to the south (Coates 1977; G. Dutson *in litt.* 2009), and, according to local reports (in Coates 1977), they leave the island altogether at certain times of the year but where they go is unknown.

A Nicobar Pigeon (Figs. 1–2) captured alive in Pohnpei (Fig. 3) on 3 November 2009 is the first documented record for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Members of a local family working in a patch of agroforest in Nanmand Village, Kitti Municipality, in the south-west of the island first observed the bird then captured it by hand in the same area later in the day after seeing the bird run along a forest trail. They brought it to GS, who then showed it to JW who photographed the bird. GS kept the pigeon in captivity for a short time in an attempt to rehabilitate it, but the bird died on 5 November and the remains